**Don't go green**

I opened my eyes to see nothing in front of me but darkness. I hadn't a clue where I was. The last thing I remembered was falling asleep in my bed. Despite the darkness, I knew I wasn't in my bedroom anymore. This room had a different feel to it. It was bigger, more open. I could just sense it. I thought maybe I was having a dream.

I went to go rub my eyes in an attempt to clear my vision and that's when I noticed that I couldn't move my arms. In fact, I wasn't even laying down, which was the last position I remembered being in. I was sitting up now in what felt to be a chair. When I went to move my arm, I could feel something holding them down. When I went to move my legs, I couldn't move those either as they felt to have something holding them down as well. That's when I realized that I was strapped to a chair and that's when I really started freaking out. Where was I and what was I doing strapped to a chair? I tried to wiggle myself free to no avail.

"Hello?!" I yelled.

A chorus of voices rang out, all sounding frantic, saying things like "Hello?", "Where am I?", and "What's going on?"

"Who's there?" I asked in fright.

"Who are you?" a voice responded. The voice sounded just as panicked as I felt.

"I'm Mackenzie," I said. "What's going on here?"

No one seemed to have an answer to that. Everybody just started talking all at once. From what I gathered, no one knew how they got here either. They all were so confused.

Just then, a very energetic voice came from overhead.

"Welcome, everyone!" it said, "You lucky five have been selected to play Don't Go Green!"

The voice was very commercial sounding, like an overly enthusiastic game show host.

"That's right, folks! You're our next contestants!"

I sat there bewildered.

*"Contestants,"* I thought. *"What was that supposed to mean?"*

There was a pause for a second or so before the voice returned. "And, who are our contestants, you ask?"

Suddenly, a spotlight popped on and landed on a boy strapped to a chair across from me.

"Here, we have John!" the announcer said enthusiastically.

The boy winced at the bright spotlight illuminating his face. He looked shocked as his name was announced.

The spotlight moved to a girl sitting next to John.

"Here, we have Anna!"

Anna turned her head to the side to avoid the bright light.

The spotlight went around like that to every chair. There were two more boys named David and Alex in the room who got called out. Lastly, the spotlight stopped at me.

"And last but not least, we have Mackenzie!"

I closed my eyes in anticipation of the bright light and then opened them back up when I could tell that the spotlight was no longer pointing at me.

"Now that we know our contestants, it’s time to play Don't Go Green!

There was a moment of silence and everyone started conversing back and forth trying to figure out how this announcer knew their names.

"This is really creepy!" Anna said.

"Yeah, it's freaking me out!" Alex replied.

Overhead lights came on, brightening up the entire room. I now could see all the people in the room clearly. They all were strapped to chairs just like I was. John sat directly across from me. Next to him was David, then Anna, and then Alex. We were positioned in a circle. Everyone's faces had different expressions. Some were expressions of fear which, of course, was to be expected. Others were expressions of worry, anxiety, and bewilderment, also to be expected. As for me? ...well, I was rather in a state of shock, afraid of what was next to come.

Another source of light popped on, further brightening up the room. There was a square board on the wall with light bulbs all around it. On the board were each of our names going vertically down the board.

"Here's the rules ladies and gentlemen," the announcer said.

"I will ask a question. If you know the answer, then tap your buzzer to buzz in."

That's when I first noticed that right next to my hand was a big, red button. This had to be the buzzer he was talking about. I looked around and saw that everyone had the same type of buzzer next to their hands as well.

The announcer continued.

"If you get the answer wrong, then you will go green! And, if no one answers the question, I will choose someone at random to go green!" His voice began sounding devilish as he spoke.

"You get one point for each correct answer. The first person who gets three points, wins the game. .....got it?" he asked.

No one verbally answered him. I just sat there thinking in my head *"What the heck does go green mean?"* I suspected that no one in the room knew what "go green" meant either. I guess we'd all find out together.

"Here's your first question," he announced.

"What color is the sky?" he asked.

We all looked back and forth at each other. We were all probably wondering the same thing. ....What kind of question was that?

*"Everyone knows the sky is blue. ...unless, maybe it's a trick question because at night the sky is black"* I thought.

Before I could evaluate it further, Alex buzzed in and loudly answered "Blue."

We all waited for the announcer, but he took his time. After a few silent seconds, his voice rang out overhead.

"Correct!!" he said.

"You get one point"

Then, the sound of a loud "ding" rather startled me. A number "1" had popped up on the board next to Alex's name. That's when I realized it was a score board.

"Next question.....In what season do bears hibernate?"

This guy had to be joking. These questions were too easy to answer. How was this any type of game? I thought *"Maybe it's not meant to be challenging."*

Anna quickly buzzed in and answered "Winter."

"Correct!!" the announcer said again.

"You get one point"

I looked up at the scoreboard (this time expecting the loud "ding") and next to Anna's name appeared a number one.

This whole scenario seemed ludicrous!

What was this all about? Why were we all here? Why are we having to answer these preschool-type questions?

"Next question......What is the square root of 1,497?

*"Wait.....hold the phone!"* I thought. I didn't think the announcer was serious. It would be impossible to calculate the square root of 1,497 in your head. I doubted that anyone in the room knew the answer.

"What the hell!" David blurted out.

"Who could answer that?" he said as if he were talking directly to the announcer.

Another chorus of voices rang out, all trying to figure out this question.

I knew our time was running out. Someone needed to give an answer.

"Does anyone know the answer?" I called out.

They all said "no."

"Times up!" the announcer said.

Suddenly, the spotlight came back on again and started rotating around the room, landing on everyone's faces one at a time. When it stopped rotating, it was shining right on John.

"John, it's your time to Go Green!"

The floor underneath my feet began to vibrate. We all looked around at each other wondering what was going on.

Just then, John suddenly dropped down through the floor.

The floor beneath him had opened up and he fell right through it, chair and all! A gleaming green light shot up through the opening in the floor, giving the room an eery green glow. We could hear John screaming.

"Oh my God!!" yelled Anna, in disbelief.

"What was that?" Alex asked frantically.

John was still screaming, but the screams got quieter and quieter until we could no longer hear them.

Slowly, the eery green light left the room as the floor where John fell through began to close up. There seemed to be a trap door under his chair.

That only meant one thing. ....we all had trap doors underneath us. At any moment, any of us could go falling through the floor.

"Where did he go?" Anna screamed.

No one knew what happened to John. Did he just fall to his death? Or, maybe go into another room.

"That's what it means to "go green?!" I hollered in astonishment. "We fall through the floor.....and then what?"

"We die!!" David frantically answered.

"We don't know that for sure" Alex said, although it was clearly evident in his voice that he was worried David was right.

"Next question!" the announcer called, prompting us all to jump at the sound.

"In what sport do you throw balls into a netted hoop?

Immediately, David buzzed in. "Basketball" he bellowed.

There was another silent pause. I was starting the think that the announcer was pausing on purpose for effect.

"Correct!" he finally answered. And then, David got one point.

I was the only one on the board now who hadn't gotten a point yet. I began to panic. I did not want to go green, so I knew I had to start answering some questions.

The game continued on with the announcer asking three more questions. Anna thought she knew the answer to one of the questions, but she got it wrong. She was the next to go green. That eery green light beamed around the room once again.

The question after that was an easy one and I quickly buzzed in to answer it. I got it right and got my first point up on the scoreboard.

We all had one point.

The third question was another hard one. No one knew the answer and I braced myself in fear of being the next chosen to go green. To my relief, however, David was the next one chosen. He fell through the floor screaming. The same green glow lit up the room, which was now starting to really creep me out.

It was just me and Alex remaining now.

The next couple questions the announcer asked were easy ones. It felt like me and Alex were in deep competition; each of us wanting to save ourselves. We both ended up answering one question correct and now had two points each.

The next point was everything!

"According the Greek mythology, who is considered the Goddess of Agriculture?"

*"Crap! It's a hard one. ....what do I do now?"* I pondered, feeling my whole body tense up.

There were two ways this could go here. Either Alex knows about Greek mythology and answers correctly, so then I'd go green. Or, neither of us answers and I pray that the spotlight falls on Alex.

"Time's up!!!" The announcer called.

The spotlight started around the room for the last time. It shined on my face, then Alex's, then mine again.

Just when I thought I was the next to go green, the spotlight fixed on Alex and stayed there.

I could see the fear in Alex's face and I felt so bad for him. On the other hand, I was also glad it wasn't me!

As the floor closed up after Alex fell through it, I was relieved that I was spared.

"Congratulations Mackenzie! You are the winner of Don't Go Green!"

The sound of applause sounded and confetti fell from the ceiling. The bindings that were holding me down suddenly released me. A blinking exit sign came on above a door and I quickly rushed over to it.

When I opened the door, it was just another darkened room. I didn't understand. Where was the way out?

"Mackenzie?" I heard the announcer say.

"Who ever said that winning meant you got to go home?"

That's when the floor dropped out from underneath me. I screamed from the initial shock. Then, my screams continued as I was falling and then everything went black.

Before everything went black, I could only remember one thing.

The sight of bright green light shining all around me.